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17 July 1956

The Honorable Clarence Cannon
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am deeply concerned about the two directives contained in the Senate Appropriations Committee Report relating to the appropriation for the new Central Intelligence Agency headquarters building (S.R. 2580).

Compliance with the directive "that the Agency shall plan to house all headquarters personnel of the Agency within the sum provided" is, in my opinion, a practical impossibility. We can accommodate all of our people in a $46,000,000 building, plus a small number of permanent buildings which we now occupy. However, according to present cost estimates prepared by the Public Buildings Service we cannot accommodate all of our personnel in a modern $46,000,000 building, no matter how austere. Therefore, this directive, if binding, would force me either to abandon the building or to reduce our personnel strength to a point where we could no longer carry out essential functions assigned to the Agency by the Executive Branch.

The second directive makes the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission responsible for obtaining written commitments on ancillary facilities which the Commission deems necessary to serve the site. There is a serious question as to whether such responsibility lies within the statutory authority of the Commission, which was created to serve in an advisory capacity to responsible executive agencies (P.L. 592, 82nd Cong.). In any case, prior to the Commission's approval of the Langley site we obtained commitments for the necessary local facilities at no cost to the Federal Government. Of the $5.5 million appropriated last year we have already obligated approximately $2 million pursuant to the terms of the authorizing and appropriating legislation. We should obligate the balance at a very early date in order to avoid serious delay in completion of the building and in the evacuation of these temporary buildings which we now occupy. Referral back to the Commission would almost certainly delay the project by many months and risk the needless expenditure of substantial federal funds.

I strongly urge that the Conference Committee reconsider the restrictive language contained in S.R. 2580, and I am enclosing suggested language for the Conference Report which I believe would accomplish the purposes which the Senate Appropriations Committee had in mind without jeopardizing the project.

Sincerely,

/s/
Allen W. Dulles
Director

1 Encl.

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR INCLUSION IN

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

The Conference Committee approves of $49,000,000, the amount allowed by the House of Representatives and the Senate for construction of the headquarters for the Central Intelligence Agency. The Committee desires that the Agency make every effort to construct a building to accommodate all of its headquarters personnel within the sum provided, and directs that none of these funds be spent in such a way as to make it necessary for the Congress to authorize additional funds at a later date. The Committee further directs that none of these funds be obligated or spent until the Director of Central Intelligence has obtained from the appropriate local authorities written commitments for the construction of roads, sewerage treatment plants, public transport, and other local facilities which are deemed necessary to serve the site selected.